

# A blizzard of memories

A flurry of facts about the Blizzard of '78.

♦The storm, which began Monday, Feb. 6, dumped an average of 27.2 inches of snow, according to records kept by Logan Airport in Boston.

♦It broke several records, including snowfall in a 24-hour period. The 27.2 inches toppled a record set just three weeks earlier on Jan. 20, 1978, which was 25 inches. The record before 1978 had been 19.4 inches in 24 hours in 1958.

♦Winds whipped at near hurricane force. They averaged 30 mph, but there were gusts as high as 79 mph.

♦New moon high tides intensified the destruction by the pounding surf.

♦Some snow drifts were as deep as 10 to 15 feet.

♦Public schools were closed for as many as four days.

♦More than 1,000 people sought shelter in two schools in Marshfield — the Grace Ryder and Gov. Winslow.

♦Damage estimates in Marshfield exceeded \$48 million.

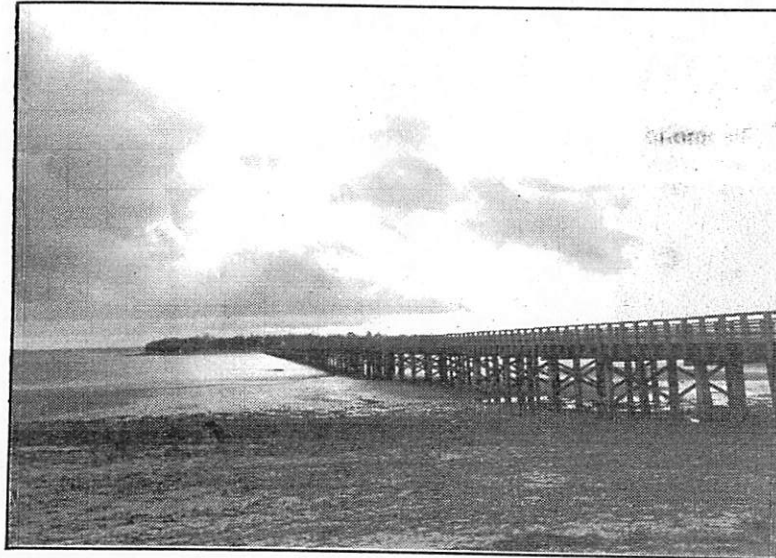
♦An estimated 20,000 homes in Plymouth were still without electricity when the *Old Colony Memorial* went to press Wednesday, Feb. 8.

♦Erosion and damage to seawalls in Plymouth were estimated at \$8.8 million. The cost of plowing streets was estimated at \$100,000.

♦Even the mail stopped. According to the *Old Colony Memorial*, the Plymouth post office was unable to deliver mail for three days.

♦The National Guard was called in to prevent looting in coastal areas devastated by the storm.

♦According to the *Duxbury*



File photo

**Picture this under water** — The Powder Point Bridge was flooded out by the Blizzard of '78.

*Clipper*, power had been restored to most Duxbury homes by the Saturday after the storm.

♦The *Clipper* also reported that harbormaster Manny Oliver was on vacation in Florida when the storm hit. Asked last week if he felt blessed, the retired harbormaster, now living in Kingston, shrugged it off. "It wouldn't have made much of a difference," he said. "It was February so all of the boats were in."

♦Duxbury police and fire departments answered more than 2,000 emergency calls in the first two days of the blizzard.

♦Duxbury's famed Powder Point Bridge was completely submerged by the 15-foot tide. The wooden bridge suffered no damage.

♦Local stores reported shortages of bread and milk. One newspaper reported a sign in the window of a local store limiting

customers to two loaves of bread.

♦Logan Airport was closed for three days.

♦The *Boston Globe* reported that for the first time in 106 years, it was unable to distribute its morning edition on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 1978.

♦Humberto Cardinal Medeiros of the Archdiocese of Boston released Roman Catholics from their obligations of fast and abstinence on Ash Wednesday because of the storm, according to the *Globe*.

♦100 people were stuck at an unlikely shelter — Boston Garden. They had been there to watch the Beanpot hockey tournament.

♦"It is exciting and fearsome at the same time," wrote the *Boston Globe* in a Feb. 8, 1978 editorial. "A blizzard demands respect and it gets it."